

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-10
IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05 OES-09
NRC-05 DOE-15 SOE-02 SAS-02 /137 W
-----065427 212128Z /12

R 211345Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
TO SECSTATE ZASHDC 1153
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NIAMEY 3692

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PARM, TECH, NG
SUBJECT: NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY ADHERENCE: NIGER

REF: STATE 205435

1. DURING CONVERSATION WITH FONMIN DJERMAKOYE LATE AFTERNOON AUGUST 18, AMBASSADOR ASKED HIM TO REVIEW NIGER'S POSITION ON ADHERENCE TO NPT. DJERMAKOYE SAID THAT NIGER UNDERSTOOD THE IMPORTANCE WHICH WE ATTACH TO THE NPT, BUT WOULD HAVE CERTAIN RESERVATIONS ABOUT JOINING THE TREATY AS AGREEMENT PRESENTLY WRITTEN. IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT THERE WOULD BE IN THE COMING MONTHS A REVIEW OF THE TREATY BY EXPERTS AT WHICH TIME CHANGES MIGHT BE PROPOSED.

2. DJERMAKOYE SAID NIGER WAS EXTREMELY CONCERNED WITH PROTECTING ITS POSITION AS A PRODUCER COUNTRY. FONMIN ARGUED THAT THE TREATY AS PRESENTLY WRITTEN COULD BE INTERPRETED TO POSE SEVERE LIMITS ON THE AMOUNT OF URANIUM WHICH NIGER COULD PRODUCE. HE SAID THAT URANIUM WAS THE ONLY RESOURCE WHICH NIGER HAD AND, AS SUCH, WOULD CONSTITUTE THE LIFE OF THE COUNTRY. SHARP RESTRICTIONS ON QUANTITIES WHICH THE COUNTRY COULD PRODUCE.
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DUCE COULD SERIOUSLY LIMIT NIGER'S ECONOMIC FUTURE.

3. DJERMAKOYE SAID NIGER HAD CERTAIN CONCRETE PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENTS TO THE NPT WHICH ARE STILL BEING WORKED OUT. HCTHESE WOULD, IN HIS VIEW, PROTECT NIGER'S RIGHTS AS A PRODUCER. HE NOTED THAT NIGER WAS A MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY. THIS, HE SAID, PUT NIGER'S PRODUCTION

UNDER FIRM INTERNATIONAL CONTROLS. HE WOULD NOT RULE OUT, HOWEVER, NIVIR'S ADHERENCE TO THE NPT IF THE PROPOSALS WHICH THEY EXPECTETA TO PUT FORTH ARE ACCEPTED.

4. AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING HIS POSITION, BUT EXPLAINED THAT

IT WAS PRECISELY BECAUSE OF NIGER'S ROLE AS A PRODUCER COUNTRY THAT WE ATTACHED SO MUCH IMPORTANCE TO ITS ADHERENCE TO THE NPT. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE NPT IN OUR VIEW WAS THE BEST HOPE OF CONTROLLING THE SPREAD OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, WHICH WAS A DANGER TO ALL OF US.JAMES

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 21 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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